MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 MARCH 1982

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- On 27 March Iranian forces launched the third phase of their current offensive, routing three Iraqi brigades and killing, wounding or capturing all their personnel, a communique broadcast by Tehran radio announced. So far 4,375 new prisoners, including veteran commanders and the coordinator of the Iraqi Popular Army, have been counted, and 70 enemy tanks and personnel carriers were seized intact, the communique said. Iranian forces eliminated Iraqi troops from 600 sq km west of Shush and Dezful, removing the cities from Iraqi artillery range, and captured strategic hills on the southern bank of Reqabiyeh River, sensitive points surrounding radar sites and the Andimeshk-Dehloran road, according to Tehran radio.

In the fourth phase of the offensive which began on 28 March, Iranian forces destroyed the 421st and 96th Iraqi Infantry Brigades, killing, wounding or capturing all their personnel, and eliminated Iraqi presence from the Dasht-e 'Abbas, Emamzadeh 'Abbas and 'Eyn Khosh sectors, another communique carried by the radio announced. Since 21 March, 14,034 prisoners have been evacuated from the fronts, the communique added. The total number of Iraqis captured in the current offensive is nearly 18,000, over 6,000 of whom have already reached Tehran, according to Tehran radio. Iranian pilots downed 2 Iraqi aircraft, and antiaircraft units shot down 2 MiG's, bringing to 18 the total of Iraqi aircraft downed since 21 March, a communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed. A subsequent Iranian communique carried by the radio asserted that another 3 Iraqi planes were shot down along the Dezful front on 29 March. On the other hand, an Iraqi military source claimed that Iraqi planes and antiaircraft defenses downed 3 Iranian Phantoms on 29 March, INA reported.

Iraqi forces are in full control of the Shush-Dezful front, according to a 26 March Iraqi General Command announcement cited by INA. The statement said 2,237 Iranians were killed on this front and 21 in other areas, while admitting 97 Iraqi dead. On 27 March Iraqi forward units foiled a widescale Iranian attack in the Dezful and Shush sectors, killing over 1,000 enemy troops, a field commander cited by INA said. Fierce clashes were continuing, with Iraqi units confronting fresh enemy reinforcements, according to a communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Iraqi forces killed 1,563 Iranians and lost 95 men, while 22 Iranian tanks were destroyed and one enemy helicopter and one drone were downed, the communique added. The Iranians also lost over 1,000 dead and 48 tanks on 28 March, according to INA. In the course of denying Iranian claims, Iraq's Air Force commander said that between 19 and 28 March, Iraqi planes and helicopters carried out 562 and 245 combat missions, respectively, losing only 2 fighter planes and 5 helicopters, INA reported.

Khamene'i Remarks, Mediation Denial -- No other government or nation in the world but Iran has the right to be concerned about Iraq's future or feel responsible for it, Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i told visiting Iraqi clergymen in remarks reported by Tehran radio. He also said Iran cannot be indifferent toward Iraq's affairs since the two countries share a long border, are related by race, tradition and religion, and Iraq's future affects Iran's future. The future Government of Iraq should be Islamic and popular, Khamene'i continued, and the line of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni will be Iraq's future line.

Iran categorically denied rumors concerning a cease-fire or mediation by India, IRNA reported.

Husayn Activities, Islamic Delegation -- Iraqi President Saddam Husayn returned to Baghdad after a visit to the southern fronts, having stressed to Iraqi troops that they will certainly retaliate against the enemy for killing harmless prisoners of war, INA reported. In a message to an Islamic seminar in Colombo, Husayn reiterated Iraq's call for a cease-fire and for settling the dispute by peaceful means that will safeguard legitimate rights, INA said. Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan minister of transport announced that both Iraq and Iran have agreed to receive a delegation from the international seminar on the universality of Islam for the purpose of discussing the war, INA said.

Foreign Volunteers -- It was disclosed in Baghdad that Muslim volunteers from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as Arab volunteers from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti and Mauritania are fighting alongside Iraq, INA reported. Over 3,000 Egyptian volunteers and 250 military experts have been sent to participate in the fighting, according to Arab diplomatic sources cited by the London magazine AL-MAJALLAH.

Israel

West Bank Mayors -- The Military Government prevented dismissed Ramallah Mayor Karim Khalaf from leaving Jericho, according to Jerusalem radio. The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said Khalaf rejected the decision to place him under house arrest. Most of the West Bank mayors signed a joint statement calling on the world public and the Israeli people to stand up against the Israeli Government's measures aimed at "annexing" the occupied territories, Jerusalem radio noted.

Policy, Remarks on Occupied Territories -- The government decided in its weekly Cabinet session that Israeli policy in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza will continue without impediment, according to a government statement carried by ITIM. The government guarantees peace and all possible aid to the Arab inhabitants who honor the law and maintain quiet, the statement said, but no acts of violence or disruptions of law and order will be tolerated. Meanwhile, MA'ARIV reported that Israel adopted its tough policy against PLO leaders in the territories in order to preempt a secret PLO plan to cause civil unrest in May, shortly after the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai.

In remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio, the head of the Civil Administration in Judaea and Samaria, Professor Menahem Milson, said he will shortly appoint local people as mayors of Nabulus, Ramallah and Al-Birah. He said the 1976 municipal elections were not democratic because they were subject to terrorism, intimidation and bribery.

According to a 28 March radio report, Israel takes a grave view of Jordan's threats to confiscate property belonging to village league members. Israel will retaliate against Jordanian property in Judaea and Samaria if the Jordanians carry out their threat, the radio said.

Israeli Arab Strike Call -- The National Arab Committee for the Defense of Land has called for a general strike of Israeli Arabs on Land Day, 30 March, Jerusalem radio reported. The Union of Israel's Arab Students and the Committee of Arab Local Councils supported the strike call, the radio said, but 10 Arab Council heads in Galilee opposed it.

Yamit Withdrawal -- Southern Command Commander Hayim Erez informed Yamit settlers that they must quit Yamit by 31 March or face evacuation by the IDF, Jerusalem radio noted.

PLO

The Voice of Palestine recently carried a number of statements denouncing Israeli policy toward the Palestinians, including a Fatah Foreign Relations Department statement appealing to national and progressive forces throughout the world to denounce Israel's "bestial repression" in the West Bank and Gaza and to support the Palestinian uprising there. One of the PLO military officials visiting Riyadh over the weekend said that with sizable assistance from the Arab world the Palestinians in the occupied territories could declare a civil insurrection for at least 6 months, AFP reported. According to another AFP report, the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee, meeting in Amman, decided to pay compensation to Palestinian residents of the West Bank and Gaza "as victims of Israeli repression."

Egypt

Internal Security -- About 200 persons taken into custody under the emergency law will be released in implementation of President Husni Mubarak's directives, MENA reported. After noting the detention of 30 fugitive members of the Society of Repudiation and Renunciation, an AKHBAR AL-YAWM article summarized by MENA reported the discovery of another organization affiliated with the society.

Egyptian-Israeli Relations -- Egypt is not willing to accept any Israeli presence in the disputed Tabah area because it will becloud mutual relations, cast doubt on Israel's intentions and give a weapon to those interested in undermining the peace process, President Mubarak wrote in his 23 March message to Prime Minister Menahem Begin, according to Jerusalem radio. The message made clear Mubarak's wish for an Israeli declaration that the Sinai withdrawal would be completed on schedule and expressed concern about recent West Bank and Gaza developments, the radio said. After delivering Begin's reply to Mubarak on 28 March, Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sason said the withdrawal from the Sinai will be carried out according to the peace treaty's stipulations, but he refused to elaborate on the content of Begin's letter, Jerusalem radio reported.

The Egyptian-Israeli treaty must be implemented regardless of circumstances, but the Egyptian people would be shocked if Israel annexed the West Bank, Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali told the Lebanese paper MONDAY MORNING in an interview reported by Cairo radio. 'Ali expressed the hope that conditions in the West Bank will not deteriorate to a point that would make negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians impossible.

Lebanon

Security Situation -- The Front for the Liberation of Lebanon From Foreigners claimed responsibility for a bomb explosion in east Beirut on 26 March, AFP reported. The bomb, which was placed in a movie theater in the Armenian quarter of Burj Hammud, killed 2 people and injured 15 others. The radio also reported that a Fatah military force entered the southern township of Jba' on 27 March.

Sarkis Tenure -- President Ilyas Sarkis affirmed in a newspaper interview that he will not renew or extend his term of office, Monte Carlo radio reported.

Saudi Arabia

Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said in an interview with Kuwait's AS-SIYASAH that his country's quarrel with Iran concerns not only the Iran-Iraq war, but also Iran's designs to dominate the Arab Gulf states, starting with Bahrain and ending with all the states in the region, KUNA reported. While Saudi Arabia wants good relations with Iran, he said, irresponsible actions will be met with the appropriate response.

Iran

Citing ETTELA'AT, AFP reported that troops killed 15 counterrevolutionaries in West Azarbayjan after the rebels had attacked an army base, killing 9 soldiers. However, the clandestine Voice of Iran radio claimed that nationalist combatants killed 117 revolution guards in recent fighting in the area.

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CHOWDHURY APPOINTED, SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT

BK271237 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Justice Abul Fazal Mohammad Assanuddin Chowdhury was sworn in as the president of Bangladesh at a simple ceremony at the Zia Hall of Banga Bhavan in Dacca this afternoon. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Justice Kamaluddin Hossain administered the oath of office.

Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad yesterday nominated Justice Abul Fazal Mohammad Assanuddin Chowdhury, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, as the president of the republic in pursuance of martial law proclamation.

The ceremony was attended by CMLA and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, Chief of Naval Staff and Deputy CMLA Rear Admiral M.A. Khan, Chief of Air Staff and Deputy CMLA Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmood, former Presidents Justice Abu Syed Chowdhury and Mohammadullah, members of the Council of Advisers to the CMLA, heads of diplomatic missions, editors of national newspapers and news agencies and senior military and civil officers.

APPOINTMENTS MADE TO ADVISORY COUNCIL

BK270201 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 0100 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad yesterday appointed three more members of his Council of Advisers and allocated their portfolios. The advisers and their portfolios are:

Health and Population Control: Maj Gen M. Shamsul Haq

Food and Relief: Air Vice Marshal, retired, A. . Mahmood

Industry: S.M. Shafiul Azam.

ERSHAD URGES PEOPLE TO WORK WITH ARMED FORCES

BK261742 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Lt Gen H.M. Ershad has called upon the people to work shoulder to shoulder with the members of the armed forces to build a happy, prosperous and corruption-free Bangladesh. He was addressing the war-wounded freedom fighters at the rehabilitation center at Muhammadpur in Dacca this morning.

General Ershad also said that he was free of any political ambition, but serves to ameliorate the sufferings of teeming millions.

ERSHAD ADDRESSES SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

BK271803 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lt Gen H.M. Ershad has said nobody will have any cause of fear from martial law if he is honest, dedicated and sincere. Otherwise, the martial law will hit hard to the corrupt and dishonest officials.

Addressing senior government officials in Dacca today, Gen Ershad said there is no scope for failure on our part as the nation can hardly afford any lapses at this critical juncture. He directed the officials to ensure disposal of files, execution of policy decisions and completion of development projects without any delay.

The CMLA called for hard work, honesty and sincerity and efficiency at all levels. He said government expenses will be reduced on all heads.

We have to survive as a self-respecting nation and cannot allow our people to suffer. Gen Ershad said the nation could no longer depend on foreign assistance. If we like to live as a self-respecting nation, then we will have to (?work) to be self-reliant in every possible way.

ERSHAD ADDRESSES MEETING WITH NEWS EDITORS

BK271755 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lt Gen Hussain Mohammad Ershad held an informal meeting with the editors of national dailies and news agencies at the CMLA headquarters in Dacca today. During the hour-long meeting they had a free and frank exchange of views on various issues of national importance. He briefly explained to them the course of events leading to the proclamation of martial law.

General Ershad reiterated that the ultimate objective of his administration is to establish a corruption-free society where only the people's interest will reign supreme. He sought cooperation of the national press in fulfilling the cherished objectives and said they should hold aloft national interests above all other considerations to help (?clear) the country and its people out of the present crisis.

He said his government will restore democracy as soon as possible.

AUTHORITIES ORDER MINISTERS TO REPORT

BK280705 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] Former Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmad, former Ministers K.M. Obaidur Rahman, Captain (retired) Mural Haq and Maj Gen (retired) Majidul Haq have been asked by the martial law authorities to report to the nearest general martial law administrator's office within 72 hours starting from this morning.

According to an announcement by the Chief Martial Law Administrator's Secretariat in Dacca last night, if the former ministers fail to report within the stipulated time, they will face action before the [words indistinct] under the relevant martial law regulations.

5 Arrested

BK271517 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Former Minister Habibullah Khan was arrested on charges of corruption, misuse of power and antistate activities. This was announced from the Chief Martial Law Administrator's Secretariat in Dacca today.

The other ministers arrested so far are: former Deputy Prime Minister S.A. Bari, former Minister Saifur Rahman and two former ministers of state -- Tanvir Ahmed Siddique and Atauddin Khan.

6th Minister Arrested

BK280623 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0605 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] According to a report received from the Chief Martial Law Administrator's Secretariat, former Minister and Mayor of Dacca City Abul Hasnat has been arrested. With this arrest, the number of ministers and state ministers arrested so far stands at six.

The total number of arrest on charges of corruption, misuse of power and antistate activities have now risen to (?232).

DACCA REPORTS 225 ARRESTS FOR CORRUPTION

BK270219 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] One former deputy prime minister, one former minister and two former ministers of state along with 225 persons have been arrested so far from all over the country on charges of corruption, misuse of power and antistate activities.

According to an announcement from the Chief Martial Law Administrator Secretariat in Dacca last night, the former deputy prime minister taken into custody is S.A. Bari. Former Minister Saifur Rahman and two former state ministers -- Tanvir Ahmed Siddique and Atauddin Khan -- were arrested earlier.

FOOD ADVISER DIRECTS OFFICERS ON DISTRIBUTION

BK281255 Dacca Domestic Service in Bengali 1200 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Food and Relief Adviser Air Vice Marshal, retired, A.G. Mahmood has directed the food officers to streamline the distribution system and eradicate corruption so that there would not be any shortage of foodgrains. He was reviewing the food situation with senior food officers at the Khadya Bhavan in Dacca this morning. The food and relief adviser suggested a number of measures and operations to bring the prices of foodgrains down to a reasonable level. He also directed them to implement those measures strictly.

The retired air vice marshal cautioned them that any failure and inefficiency on the part of food officers in implementing these measures will not be tolerated. Corruption on the part of officers will be dealt with severely and no one will be spared if found indulging in malpractices.

The food and relief adviser also urged the food officers to change their attitude and take [word indistinct] decisions so that the people do not have to suffer due to lack of timely, appropriate measures. The secretary of the Ministery of Food was also present at the meeting.

CMLA DECLARATION ISSUED ON FIREARMS POSSESSION

BK261615 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1535 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] A martial law declaration issued by the Chief Martial Law Administrator Secretariat tonight says if any person possessing firearms, ammunition or explosives without a bonafide license deposits them to the nearest police station by the 3d of next month, he will not be liable to any penalty notwithstanding anything contained in Clause 7 of the Martial Law Regulation No 1 of 1982. This declaration will also equally apply to the owner or occupant of a place where any firearm, ammunition or explosive was found.

OFFICIAL FILES NOT TO BE REMOVED, DESTROYED

BK261653 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1536 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] All government departments, semigovernment and autonomous organizations have been directed to ensure that no file was removed from the office any way, destroyed or tampered with. Concerned officials and employees will be seriously dealt with if any such attempt is made.

CMLA SECRETARIAT ISSUES MARTIAL LAW ORDERS 3, 4

BK261651 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1534 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Martial Law Order No 3 issued today instructed all ministries, agencies and other establishments to maintain all work of public utility and necessity. The order issued by the Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Secretariat says all ministries, agencies, poura sabhas [municipalities], water and sewage authorities, port authorities, local bodies and architects of building and structures are hereby instructed to:

A. Maintain all works of utilities and necessities and to always keep them in proper functioning and cleanliness.

B. Clear all unauthorized occupants within their respective jurisdiction.

C. Clear all roads, footpaths and maintain such roads and footpaths in proper conditions.

D. Whitewash and remove all writings, slogans and signs from the walls and buildings alongside roads and which are visible from the roads.

As reported earlier, the Martial Law Order Nos 1 and 2 issued yesterday from the CMLA Secretariat related to banning of all the seminars and workshops and the government, semigovernment and other officials visits abroad.

ORDER ON TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS 'CLARIFIED'

BK280905 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] It is clarified for all concerned that Martial Law Order No 2 putting restrictions on travel abroad is applicable on [words indistinct] of employees of the government, semi-government, autonomous organizations and sector corporations. In the case of these employees, prior permission will be required from the martial law administrator or an officer authorized by him. No prior permission is, however, required for those who do not fall in the category of these employees.

GANDHI RETURNS FROM 6-DAY VISIT TO UK

BK270835 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi returned to New Delhi a short while ago after her 6-day visit to Britain. She was received at the airport among others by her Cabinet colleagues and senior officials.

GANDHI HOPES BANGLADESH 'WILL SETTLE DOWN'

BK270904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] The prime minister has expressed the hope that things will settle down peacefully in Bangladesh and they will try to be friendly with India.

Mrs Gandhi was replying to questions by newsmen at Delhi airport on her return from her 6-day state visit to Britain. She said sometimes it happens that they like to blame us whenever something goes wrong in that country.

The prime minister described her visit to Britain as exceedingly good. She had satisfactory talks with the British leaders, particularly on economic issues. Mrs Gandhi said despite a divergence of views, such meetings have clarified our stand. She declined to divulge any details of her discussions saying that she would have to inform the Parliament first.

Replying to a questioner, Mrs Gandhi said she has received several invitations to visit Moscow, but no date has been fixed so far. She hopes to go there this year.

ASSAM OFFICIAL ON VIGIL ALONG BANGLADESH BORDER

BK270935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Adviser to the Assam Governor R.B. Subramaniam has said that there is no organized infiltration into the state from across the border. He said in Gauhati that the government has directed the security forces to keep strict vigil all along the border of Bangaldesh following recent developments in that country.

MILITARY EXERCISE IN ANDAMAN SEA BEGINS 24 MAR

BK241355 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 24 Mar 82

[Text] The 10-day joint amphibious exercise of the army, the navy and the air force under the unified command of the [words indistinct] commander of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands began in the Andaman Sea today.

Several warships, submarines, naval and air force planes and specialized units of the army are participating in the exercise.

CPI CONGRESS ENDS, CALLS FOR NEW LINE

BK281602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] The 12th Congress of the Communist Party of India ended its week-long session in Varanasi today.

The party adopted a resolution which calls for adopting a new political line to bring a left and democratic alternative in the country. The party also elected a 125-member National Council.

BANGLADESH ENVOY CALLS ON FOREIGN SECRETARY

BK251530 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] Bangladesh Ambassador Nazrul Islam called on the foreign secretary in Islamabad today and apprised him of the situation as a result of which martial law had to be enforced in Bangladesh.

The foreign secretary said the change of government in Bangladesh is purely an internal affair of that country. He said the Government of Pakistan and its people maintain extremely friendly feelings for the fraternal people of Bangladesh. They wish Lt Gen H.M. Ershad complete success in solving the problems of his country and achieving the national aspirations which he mentioned in his address to the nation.

TURKISH GROUND FORCES COMMANDER PAYS VISIT

BK191644 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 19 Mar 82

[Text] Turkish Ground Forces Commander and the member of National Security Council Gen Nurettin Ersin arrived in Islamabad this evening on a week's good-will visit to Pakistan. Vice Chief of Army Staff Gen Sawar Khan received him at the airport. Federal Minister for Production and Railways Lt Gen Said Qadir, the Turkish ambassador and senior military officers were also present at the airport. Madam Ersin, the Turkish Military War School Commandant Maj Gen (Ednan Naibi) and a 66-member Turkish military band are accompanying General Ersin.

Leaves for Home

BK260353 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Gen Nurettin Ersin, commander of the Turkish Ground Forces, left Karachi for home yesterday after a week-long official visit to Pakistan.

RUMORED BALUCHI GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE DENIED

GF191225 Karachi NAWA-E-WAQT in Urdu 17 Mar 82 p 12

[Text] Quetta, 16 Mar -- Mehrullah Mengal refuted reports by Western sources that his older brother, former chief Minister of the Baluchistan Province Sardar Ataullah Mengal, had set up a government-in-exile in London or is trying to do so.

He told NAWA-E-WAQT that Western sources were disseminating these rumors for their own ends. He said: I spoke to Sardar Ataullah Mengal a few days ago on the telephone and he told me his medical treatment is to continue for 3 more months, after which he plans to return. Mehrullah said that the people of Baluchistan are ready to lay down their lives for the integrity of Pakistan. They are as patriotic as the citizens of the other provinces and if an exigency occurs and if Pakistan's solidarity demands it, the people of Baluchistan will not only be seen by the side of their Pakistani brothers but also in the forefront. He added: Those casting aspersions on Baluchistan and its people are the friends of neither the Baluchis nor of Pakistan.

BRIEFS

SIBI TV BOOSTER -- Baluchistan Governor Lt Gen Rahimuddin Khan inaugurated a TV booster in Sibi on 18 March. [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Mar 82 BK]

MUSAVI: U.S. UNDERESTIMATING GULF MUSLIMS

LD272010 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Interview granted by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi to an unidentified correspondent; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Musavi, in view of the recent battle victories achieved by the forces of Islam which have resulted in the Islamic Republic of Iran consolidating its position even further in the war, the imperialists are trying to portray Iran as a threatening power in the region. What is your general reaction to these allegations and what is the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand toward the reactionary Arab countries that have been supporting Iraq in its conflict with Iran?

[Answer] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The new trend in the attitude of imperialist media is not an extraordinary development. It is natural for the world oppressor to mobilize all its resources against our Islamic revolution and to try to brand our country as a threatening power. Well, there are countries in this region which follow the dictates of America -- some of these countries are small and are under constant threat by the region's important powers -- it is natural that such propaganda is aimed at them. (?In our foreign relations) we have told these countries [words indistinct]. As far as the small countries of the region are concerned, they are under pressure by Iraq, America and other powers in the region and have taken a position against our revolution. But now that Saddam is on the verge of a downfall and, God willing, we are at the complete and final victory, naturally, if the smaller Gulf states are wise, they should realize that they are the neighbors of a nation which was able to expel the American base from its territory with its strong fist. Ours is a nation which has repeatedly declared its policy of peace in the region without [word indistinct] superpowers.

Logical analysis of the events over the last 18 months indicates that this nation and this regime do not have an aggressive trend. I believe as the result of the victory of Islam's army over Saddam the new realities on the regional scene will emerge and impose themselves on the smaller Gulf countries. They will gradually find out that they can live in peace and friendship next to our great nation and our powerful country.

Of course, I should not leave out this natural trend in our foreign policy, that is, we are against the U.S. presence in the region, against the presence of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf. Therefore, those countries that wish to become U.S. strongholds in the region cannot remain next to our nation and our country. I have noticed some positive trends recently in the remarks by some of the officials of these countries. I have noticed trends indicate of independence and of opposition to the presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf. We view this trend as a good omen.

[Question] In view of the Iraqi regime's current circumstances, how do you see the future of that country? [Words indistinct] and what would be the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand in light of these developments?

[Answer] Well, these developments are taking shape so fast and the victories achieved by our combatants are so quick it would be natural for us to expect, God willing, that the final and decisive victory will be in our favor. These victories no doubt will have far-reaching effects inside Iraq: first, the developments resulting from the natural wishes of the Iraqi people and second, the developments which the superpowers could artifically impose upon Iraq; we will defend the former and oppose the latter. We guess that the United States may try to implement in Iraq the plan which it, fortunately, failed to implement in Iran, that is, to create a Bakhtiar for Iraq. Yet, we have no doubt that, with the awareness of the fighting people of Iraq, all such conspiracies will be doomed to fail. Not only the Muslim people of Iraq but the region's Muslim nations will not tolerate an Iraqi regime dependent on the superpowers. The future Iraqi regime must be deeply dependent on the rising and Muslim people of Iraq.

[Question] Mr Musavi, as you know, the United States is spreading a rumor concerning Iran's purchase of arms from Israel. Can we have your comment?

[Answer] Well, whenever the United States is trapped or one of its lackeys in the region faces danger, the United States begins to spread such rumors. We have had to repeatedly deal with this issue in the past. It is natural for the United States to use any means at this delicate period when Saddam is on the verge of collapse and the Iraqi regime's downfall is imminent, in order to find supporters for the Iraqi regime. All U.S. past efforts and conspiracies have had no effect so far and will have no effect in the future.

The United States underestimates the Gulf nations' awareness. The United States is greatly underestimating the deep awareness which is taking shape in the Muslim world. The world's oppressed nations today are well aware of the superpowers' conspiracies and plots and understand very well the aims and the meaning of these conspiracies launched by the imperialist media.

[Question] My last question concerns the recent demonstrations by the Lebanese and the people of occupied Palestine. What are your general views concerning these developments and what are the realities behind them?

[Answer] I consider these developments as a fresh and auspicious phenomenon. There is a marked distinction between recent and past marches and demonstrations. There are similarities between the marches taking place in occupied Palestine and those which took place in Iran during the revolution. The slogans contain Islamic concepts, and some are [word indistinct].

The "God is great" slogans are being increasingly heard. It is natural for us to view the new move which has started in occupied Palestine as part of an overall uprising by world Muslims. As we have said repeatedly in the past, the only solution to the question of Israel and the expulsion of the occupied regime is an Islamic solution, not solutions such as pan-Arabism or native solutions which are dependent on land and blood. Fortunately the trend toward Islam is increasing and we deeply and strongly support these movements, both at the propaganda level as well as our [word indistinct] level, and will do and will give all the support we can afford. We are assured that the expansion of such struggle on the regional level, especially in the vicinity of occupied Palestine, can lead to the destruction of the strong Zionist buildup in the region.

KHAMENE'I ADDRESSES IRAQI CLERGY ON UNITY

LD281152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Excerpts] The Central News Unit reports that a group of Iraqi clergymen residing in Iran, followers of the imam's line, met this morning with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. President Khamene'i, while expressing his pleasure in meeting the Iraqi clergymen, commented on the importance and role of the struggling clergy in Iraq and on the need for their services and duties at this time. He also mentioned the important role of martyr Ayatollah as-Sadr in fighting the Ba'thist regime of Iraq and world oppression.

The president referred to the recent victories of the combatants of Islam and the impending end to the doomed life of Saddam's regime. Noting the efforts of international oppression and colonialism to interfere in Iraq's affairs, he said: The Iranian nation and government cannot be indifferent toward Iraq's affairs and are interested in them. There is a long border separating our countries, and we are related by race, tradition and religion. Iraq's future affects our future, too. The Islamic Republic cannot stand by and watch other powers plot the destiny of Iraq. No other government or nation in the world but Iran has the right to be concerned about Iraq's future of feel responsible for it.

President Khameni'i said: The future Government of Iraq should be an Islamic and popular one, two essential conditions. If the government is Islamic it will inevitably be against Zionism and international oppression, imperialism and colonialism, and if it is popular, it will be for equality and fraternity on all levels. All the hopes of different groups for Iraq's future can be summed up in these two words: popular and Islamic.

The president said: People will support their theologians and religious leaders, because they rule their hearts. The line of the vice regency of the chief theologian will be Iraq's future line, while the leader of the Islamic nation is Imam Khomeyni himself. There is no difference between Iran and Iraq insofar as accepting the imam as the leader and following his line are concerned. Government and state officials are limited by international boundaries and borders, but the imam is not limited. Islam makes us follow the imam. The Iranian nation is not the only Islamic nation.

The president referred to the conspiracies of politicians, opportunists, ambitious people and those seeking domination to create diversions in Iraq and the need for our brothers' awareness in foiling such deviationist lines. He asked them not to repeat their mistakes and to use the experiences of the Islamic revolution in order to establish the foundations of Iraq's future popular and Islamic government. He added: The future government of Iraq should be guided by the struggling clergy and should be based on the principles of Islam. President Khamene'i also stated: There is no difference between Shi'ites and Sunnis. The imam of the nation is the leader of the Sunnis as well, and the Sunnis, their religious leaders and theologians and their millions-strong masses have repeatedly stressed this fact. He told the Iraqi clergymen: You should keep Sunni brothers in your revolutionary movement, and you should maintain Islamic unity inside Iraq.

KHAMENE'I URGES IRAQI ARMY TO SURRENDER

LD281214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Message from President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to the Iraqi Army; date and place not given -- read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim Iraqi military men, members of Iraq's Popular Army: You know that Saddam has betrayed you and has sacrificed you for the goals of the criminal United States and the usurping Israel and for his personal whims and that, in implementing the aggressive policy of world imperialism, he has committed aggression against Iranian territory.

You know that the Islamic Republic is the defender of the deprived against the usurping Israel, the cofighter with the people of Palestine demanding the enforcement of justice, equality, brotherhood and peace throughout the Islamic world. You can see that this aggressive war brings nothing but losses and casualties to your army. Wake up. Lay down your arms and join the army of Islam so that you can start a new life under the protection of the Koran and Islam and pave the way for the liberation of your nation from the paws of imperialism and for the struggle against world Zionism.

With the hope for prosperity and happiness for the fraternal nation of Iraq.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

RAFSANJANI ON VICTORIES, WEST BANK RIOTS

LD261550 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Our country's martyr-nurturing Muslim people, on the first Friday of the new year, with their monolithic presence and closed ranks, observed the political-religious Friday prayer ceremonies throughout the country today.

Today's unity-inspiring Friday prayer ceremonies were held at Tehran University with the participation of a vast throng of Tehran's worshippers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran's acting Friday imam.

In his first sermon, he referred to past discussions on social justice in Islam's economic life and mentioned that Islam favors further production, moderation in wealth and consumption, and favors individuals in society closing together utilize nature [as heard]. He then raised two sets of intellectual and ideological issues and executive problems as two principled sections aimed at achieving the goal of Islam.

In his second Friday prayer sermon, Tehran's acting Friday imam referred to the recent victories achieved by Islam's combatants on the war fronts, saying:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] What took place in the first 2 or 3 days of the new year in the vicinity of Shush and Dezful is one of history's miracles in accordance with military, political and psychological yardsticks and if the world's conscience was healthy and recorded accurately the history of world wars it should view the victory achieved by the Iranian Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards and Mobilization Corps during these past 2 or 3 days as one of the rarities in the history of wars in the world.

More than 30,000 Iraqi Ba'thist troops were deployed there. The number of tanks, [word indistinct] rocket launchers, personnel carriers, cannon, radar sets, antiaircraft guns, light and heavy weapons and ammunition were innumerable. The approximately $30 billion which Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and others gave and the Iraqis spent on purchasing weapons have been spent on these very things which have been turned into scrap metal. [end recording]

In another part of his speech, Tehran's acting Friday imam referred to the acts of sabotage perpetrated by Bani-Sadr at the beginning of the war, saying: The plan which has just been carried out should have been carried out 1 and 1/2 years ago, but Bani-Sadr himself, by gathering a handful of hypocrites from the army, whose task was to hatch plots, carried out acts of treachery instead of serving. He said: By dismissing Bani-Sadr from the post of commander in chief of the armed forces, an obstacle was removed and we moved forward step by step until we arrived here.

Referring to the recent victories achieved by Islam's combatants, he then said: This victory demonstrates that Iraq can no longer defend itself and that the initiative everywhere is in our hands.

In conclusion, referring to the future of Iraq and to the problems of the region, Tehran's acting Friday imam said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] [Words indistinct] we have merely opened and are opening the path so that the Iraqi nation can control its destiny. And the small Persian Gulf states should not be in fear of us. They should not think that we are angry because of what they have done and are bent on taking revenge. No. They have acted badly toward us, but we forgive them. They have behaved so badly that Kuwait radio has not yet carried the report on the victory on the Dezful front. At a time when all the peoples have heard the news from all sources Kuwait radio quotes the voice of Iraq which said: We have captured 2,000 Iranian prisoners. Let them behave ungraciously, but we are not vengeful.

Here, I thank Mr Shaykh Zayid, president of the UAE, who had the courage to say: You are telling lies when you say that the danger stems from the Islamic Republic. No. Do not tell lies. The danger stems from Israel.

Another important issue which we have [word indistinct] is the new course of events which is taking place in the occupied territory of Palestine. As you know, the people in Israel who are of Palestinian background, the Palestinian people, have started a correct course. They are repeating the experience of the Islamic revolution of Iran in that country. They have started a number of demonstrations, strikes, the closing down of departments, and the closing of centers of activity. The Israeli police are also playing the same role as the role which was played by the shah's police during the revolution. I congratulate the Palestinians and I ask the Arab nations and the Muslims to support them. I ask you brothers and sisters to support them, and I ask them not to be deceived by the sessions of the American-controlled United Nations. They gather together only to deceive you.

Continue your present course. Come out into the field, chant slogans, shout "God is great." Like us, climb onto your rooftops and shout "God is great." Engage in strikes. Close down your shops. Do as we did. That path is victorious.

They have found their path there and, God willing, they will also find their way of fighting, in the same way that we are fighting. The way that the Iranian nation fought should become a model for the future in history.

This method has brought despair upon all the armament manufacturers of the world. They wish us to fight with planes or with surface-to-air missiles for every one of which we should pay $500,000. However, we fight with a Kalashnikov or G-3 bullets which we manufacture ourselves. They expect us to fight with all the modern weapons so that we are in need of a foreign expert to supervise us; but we fight only with the things which are being manufactured by the armament factories of the armed forces. We do not use the expensive war methods as is being done by Iraq. Iraq fires a $3-million missile in order to destroy a house worth 100,000 tumans and to kill a few Muslims. We go to our trenches and we destroy our enemy with grenades. This method should be emulated in the world. This is the way to fight against Israel. If this method is adopted, a small country like Syria can overcome Israel on its own. God willing, this method of fighting will be adopted in the future. [end recording]

DEFENSE MINISTER BRIEFS CABINET ON VICTORIES

LD271322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Excerpt] The Cabinet of the Islamic Republic of Iran held a session today chaired by Mr Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister. During this session, reports of the great victories of the combatants of Islam were reviewed.

The defense minister, Colonel Salimi, analyzed the enemy's disintegrating military situation and said: This morning, the brave forces of Islam, through their fresh victories, reached all the planned targets in the recent operations. The attacks by our combatants will continue until the final victory.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 832

LD261804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Communique 832 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The victorious combatants of Islam continue to advance and to occupy one trench after another of the Saddamist aggressors and deceived ones. Our forces are regaining our holy and Islamic lands from the aggressive enemy and, with the help of God, will annihilate and rout the remnants of the aggressive Iraqi forces. We declare to the people of the world that the forces of truth are always victorious.

The heroic and brave pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran support the operations of the heroes of Islam with heroism and honor in all areas. By providing cover for the ground units, crushing the enemy's positions and offering transportation and logistic support, they constantly assist the fighting forces to achieve the final victory.

While maintaining their air superiority and guarding the airspace of the war zones, these epic-makers of the vast skies of our Islamic homeland, Iran, attacked Iraqi positions today at 0900 and bombed the enemy positions on the border strip of western 'Eyn Khosh. After inflicting numerous losses and casualties upon the Iraqi forces and completing their successful mission, all of them returned safely to their bases.

As a result of the air defense fire of the ground forces, an enemy aircraft was downed in the Reqabiyeh area yesterday afternoon.

In addition, an Iraqi aircraft intruding into the southern area was downed at 2100 last night by the fire of the surface-to-air defense unit of the air force, thus bringing the number of Iraqi aircraft shot down in the past 5 days of the Fat'h operations to 11.

During the victorious battles of the past 5 days of the Fat'h operations, the brave heroes and self-sacrificing pilots of the ground forces Airborne Division supported the operations of the ground forces units by attacking the aggressive enemy and raiding its positions. Its victorious operations are worthy of our praise and gratitude.

Fighting is continuing throughout the southern and western fronts with sporadic exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire between our strong forces and the Iraqi forces. The losing enemy has suffered losses and casualties on all fronts.

By bringing the enemy positions on the Abadan fronts under fire, our zealous combatants killed or wounded more than 30 of the aggressive forces and destroyed 2 ammunition dumps, 2 trucks and more than 10 weapons trenches belonging to the Iraqi forces.

At 0915 today another 349 Iraqi POW's arrived in Tehran by train. The number of POW's transferred to Tehran has reached 5,046.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 836

LD271916 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Communique 836 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. As a result of the bravery and self-sacrifices of the Islamic army and with the ceaseless support of all the faithful and committed Iranian strata, the Saddamist aggressors, leaving behind heavy losses and casualties, lose their positions one after another and gain nothing but eternal shame, disgrace and contempt.

The brave combatants of the Islamic homeland are on the path toward stabilizing God's true religion and defending the land of Islam with the help of God, and are showing the utmost devotion and self-sacrifice.

Here is a report on the operations and activities carried out by the forces of Islam on the southern and western fronts of the country:

Today the heroic and brave pilots of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by providing air cover for the ground units and bombing the enemy's concentration centers, played an important role in the victory operations. The Saddamist aggressors' positions in the south of Dasht-e 'Abbas were crushed by the fighter aircraft of the Islamic air force. As a result, part of Saddam's armored equipment was destroyed and a number of the Iraqi servicemen were killed.

This morning our air force's surface-to-air units destroyed two enemy aircraft; this afternoon one of our fighter aircraft destroyed one Iraqi aircraft. The total of enemy aircraft downed since the beginning of the victory operations has now reached 14.

With the transfer of another 1,447 Iraqi POW's to Tehran today, the total of POW's brought to Tehran has reached 6,493.

In our country's western operational areas our indefatigable combatant brothers continue their missions with perfect control. In the Meymak and Salehabad areas, our units' artillery fire destroyed several supply points of the enemy. In the Sumar area our units' artillery fire destroyed the Saddamists' positions and fortifications and stopped their movements.

Exchanges of fire were continuing intensely in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab area, Sonboleh, Bazi Deraz and (Kaseh Shur). In the Gilan-e Gharb area, 2 tanks, 3 vehicles, 1 ammunition dump and 1 observation post of the Iraqi enemy were set ablaze and at least 15 of the aggressors were killed.

In the (Ban-e Siran) region, our forces, by carrying out special operations, destroyed a number of trenches and five vehicles of the enemy, together with their occupants.

In the Ilam area, the combatants of the gendarmerie opened fire on enemy positions and destroyed six supply points and one observation post. They also destroyed one ammunition dump and three supply points in Shur-e Shirin. During these operations a number of the Saddamists were either killed or wounded.

The artillery units of the ground forces opened fire and disrupted the movement of the enemy vehicles in the areas of (Biryarah) and Panjwin and silenced enemy artillery fire.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 837

LD281752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Communique 837 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Following the victorious and saga-making Fat'h operations, the brave combatants of Islam on all fronts west of Dezful and Shush have destroyed most of the aggressive Iraqi forces, are still attacking the aggressive forces and, by securing predetermined targets and frotifying the positions under their control, they are mopping up the positions and sectors that have been liberated and are busy evacuating the POW's.

On the other southern fronts, the exchange of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continues, and the heroic self-sacrificers of the air force created sagas today as on other days. Our self-sacrificing pilots, with the alertness and cooperation of the antiaircraft units, at 1437 and 1734 made two other aggressive enemy aircraft the preys of their fast-flying hunters and downed them in the Dehloran and Hamidiyeh sectors. Two MiG's were also shot down in the (Chenaneh) and Reqabiyeh sectors by the evervigilant antiaircraft units of the ground forces. Thus, with the crashing of these three [figure as heard] aircraft, the number of Iraqi aircraft destroyed during the victorious Fat'h operations has reached 18.

By giving air support to the areas covered by the great Fat'h operations, the self-sacrificers of the air force deprived the enemy fighter planes of any form of battle (?strength), and like fastflying eagles flew in the indigo skies of Khuzestan above the heads of their combatant brothers in the ground forces could continue their proud operations safe from enemy fighters and so that air superiority could also be maintained in the region.

The ground forces' combatants on the Salehabad, Meymak, Sumar, Gilan-e Gharb and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab fronts brought enemy positions under fire, inflicting considerable losses and casualties on the enemy. They destroyed a large number of trenches, foxholes and enemy supply points. In addition, 1 ammunition dump, 7 light and heavy vehicles and 30 enemy personnel were destroyed. They also fired on an enemy supply road in the Gilan-e Gharb sector.

On the Marivan front, thanks to the artillery fire of the ground forces, enemy positions in the Sheykhan and (Banibanuch) sectors were crushed and enemy movements and activities were neutralized.

On the Shur-e Shirin front, the gendarmerie combatants returned fire on the Saddamists' positions, destroying several trenches, foxholes and enemy personnel.

IRAQI POPULAR ARMY COORDINATOR CAPTURED

LD281106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] According to an IRNA report received a few moments ago, the managing director of the underground waters department of Iraq's Irrigation Ministry, who is the coordinator of Saddam's Popular Army, has been taken prisoner by the forces of Islam. He confessed that, as a propaganda and security official, he was engaged in espionage activities in the Iraqi Army and in the groups that are dispatched to the front.

18,000 IRAQI POW'S TAKEN IN RECENT OPERATION

LD281746 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Reliable sources close to the war fronts announced the number of Iraqi POW's taken during the great Fat'h operations [beginning 21 Mar] were nearly 18,000.

Meanwhile, strategic height No 202 in the Ilam region was cleared of Saddam's army after being taken by the valiant combatants of Islam.

JOINT STAFF, GUARDS PROVIDE DETAILS ON FIGHTING

5,300 Killed in Shush

LD261728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Communique issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The martyr-nurturing nation of Islam, the victorious combatants of Islam are following up the successful Fat'h operations by advancing and fortifying the positions they capture.

This morning the aggressive enemy gathered its scattered forces on the Reqabiyeh axis and launched a counterattack which was totally repulsed. The enemy was forced to flee, leaving 180 dead and wounded behind. Our selfless brothers destroyed 5 tanks and 4 other vehicles belonging to the enemy and captured 107 more deceived personnel of the Iraqi Army.

The number of enemy soldiers killed in the Shush region alone totals 5,300 with 80 tanks and armored personnel carriers destroyed. Thirteen undamaged tanks and a large quantity of ammunition fell into the hands of the forces of Islam.

Forces Advancing

LD271346 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Communique issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the name of God, the crusher of the oppressors. "We have verily granted you a resounding victory." [Koranic verse]

Oppressed of the world, peace be upon you. The victory achieved today belongs to Islam. Muslim and heroic Islamic nation, blessed be to you the gifts of God. Army of God and followers of the soul of God! May your steps be strong in moving forward to establish justice. Blessed be to you divine mercy. Blessed upon you be the divine assistance. Forces of right! Blessed upon you be the divine assistance. Forces of right! Blessed be upon you the help of the hidden imam on the battlefronts of truth against falsehood.

Martyr-nurturing nation! In the third phase of the victorious Fat'h operations, codenamed the Fat'h al-Mubin operations, which began at dawn this morning with the words "Oh prophet's daughter," the warriors of Islam are forging forward and smashing the feeble, duped enemy. Our combatants, with their weapons and the enemy-breaking cries of "God is great," are destroying the trenches of blasphemy and aggression.

This morning the self-sacrificing victorious combatants of Islam, relying upon divine kindness and with the love of Hoseyn's Karbala' [ancient battle], launched a vast offensive on the Shush and Dezful axes. During this attack, the combatants of Islam have managed to liberate the sensitive points around radar sites four and five from enemy occupation.

The self-sacrificing forces of Islam launched a lightning battle to encircle the strategic radar sites. This was one of the most fatal and crushing blows delivered to the body of world arrogance and its puppet, the mercenary Saddam.

Muslim and heroic nation of Islam! Saddam, this puppet of the arch-Satan, had claimed that if Iran managed to recapture the radar sites near Dezful, he would hand over the key to Basra to the Iranian forces. We do not want to take the key to Basra from a mercenary such as Saddam. Right is obtainable. It is up to the oppressed Muslim nation of Iraq to take this [word indistinct] right of theirs, not incompletely but fully.

Islamic nation! The offensive that your sons launched on battlefronts against the duped individuals has taken the enemy be great surprise and has confused them so much that Iraqi planes have bombed their own positions several times. During this vast offensive, the combatants of Islam, these followers of the Koran, succeeded in crushing Iraq's 1st Mechanized Armored brigade and captured the commander of this brigade, Colonel Sardar. The 422d Infantry Brigade in the Shush sector was also fully engaged by the forces of Islam and was totally crushed. Many of the troops of this brigade were either killed or taken prisoner by our warriors.

Since the start of the third phase of the Fat'h operations, a large number of Iraqi Muslim forces have joined the warriors of Islam. The warriors of Islam have also succeeded in capturing more than 1,000 enemy troops.

During these operations, apart from the destruction of a large number of enemy tanks and vehicles, tens of tanks, personnel carriers, vehicles and large quantities of ammunition have been captured. An accurate count of these captured items will be brought to the attention of our ever-vigilant Islamic nation later.

Our Muslim combatants are right now advancing toward the international borders powerfully and triumphantly. We praise these great victories to the hidden imam -- may our souls be sacrificed for him -- the imam of the Islamic nation and all the heroic and committed people in our country. We hope that the prayers of the nation will continue to support us in our future victories while fighting against the blasphemous Saddam and world arrogance.

Communique on 27 Mar Battle

LD271806 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Communique issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Muslim and vigilant nation: In the continuation of the third stage of the extensive victory operations which started this morning, heavy losses and casualties were inflicted upon the aggressive enemy's forces. In these operations, the 1st Mechanized Infantry Brigade, the 93d Infantry Birgade and the 10th Brigade of the special forces of the Iraqi Army were completely routed and all the personnel of these three brigades were either killed, wounded or taken prisoner by the army of Islam.

In addition to the destruction of a large number of tanks, vehicles, personnel carriers and ammunition, tens of tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles of the aggressive Iraqi Army, together with a considerable quantity of ammunition, were seized by the forces of Islam as spoils of war. During these operations, thousands of Saddam's deceived forces were taken prisoner by our vigilant combatants; so far 4,375 prisoners have been counted.

In addition to Colonel Sardar, General Dakhil 'Ali Helali, commander of the Raheyueh region operations, who is one of the veteran Iraqi military commanders, is among today's POW's.

Heroic Islamic nation: In a confrontation with the bravery of your combative sons, one battalion of the enemy's aggressive forces, together with all its weapons, equipment and personnel in the vicinity of (Shenesh), was surrounded by the forces of Islam and its personnel together with their equipment and weapons, and surrendered themselves to the forces of Islam. The number of enemy dead and wounded during today's operations is very high; so far the exact number is not known.

During today's operations, the highflying heroes of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the aviation forces of the ground forces with their unique bravery set fire to tens of the enemy's tanks, personnel carriers and vehicles and destroyed them.

At 1430 today 70 enemy tanks and personnel carriers in the area near radar facilities were surrounded by the forces of Islam; all of them were seized intact by our forces.

28 Mar Successes

LD281810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Communique issued by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Oh great nation of Islam: In the fourth stage of the Fat'h operations, which started at dawn this morning, your pride-giving and combative sons' lightning and crushing operations captured the sectors of (Semdal) and (Cholaleh), the villages of 'Eyn Khosh, Dasht-e 'Abbas, Emamzadeh 'Abbas, (Timeh), (Abu Qoreyb), (Favi), (Seyhur) and the very important and strategic heights of (Duslak), which was the enemy's command and supply center in the Reqabiyeh sector.

Also, this afternoon the 421st and 96th Iraqi Infantry Brigades were completely destroyed after lightning operations by the pride-giving combatants of Islam, and all the personnel of the two brigades were killed, wounded or captured by the forces of righteousness. Staff Infantry Colonel (Sabbaq) Karim Ahmed, commander of the 421st Brigade, and Infantry Colonel Mohammad Mahmud Ahmed, acting commander of the brigade, were captured by the victorious forces of Islam during today's pride-giving operations.

The fast flyers of the army air corps brought the artillery positions of the aggressive Iraqi forces near Hill No 95 under fire and, while inflicting heavy losses, completely destroyed a number of cannons.

During the victorious operations by the heroes of Islam, the Dasht-e 'Abbas and Emamzadeh 'Abbas sectors in the north of the Shush sector and the 'Eyn Khosh sector were cleansed of the filthy presence of the Saddamist aggressors and came under the complete control of the forces of Islam. One enemy armored column was set ablaze, thanks to the accurate firing of our alert combatants; a large number of tanks and vehicles of the aggressive forces were also destroyed.

Following lightning operations by our alert combatants and the capture of another group of the Ba'thists, the number of POW's evacuated to behind the fronts reached 14,034. The number of enemy personnel killed during today's operation has reached hundreds, but due to the extent of the operation we have so far not received an accurate number. Two hundred vehicles and 8 tanks and personnel carriers together with large quantities of light weapons and ammunition were captured by the combatants of Islam.

The advance of our alert forces toward the borders and their securing still continues with the complete success of the combatants of Islam; God willing, the reports on future victories will be brought to your attention in future communiques.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS VISIT SOUTHERN FRONTS

LD291140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Mar 82

[Text] A group of correspondents from various international news agencies and television networks in Japan, England and America and reporters from important newspapers today went to the southern fronts to inspect the victories of the army of Islam in the Fat'h operations, which were carried out in four phases. IRNA reports that other groups of foreign correspondents will take part in tours to inspect the southern fronts within the next few days. These groups of foreign correspondents will have an opportunity during their trip to the southern front to see for themselves the disgraceful defeat suffered by the forces of Saddam at the hands of Islam's combatants. In this trip, foreign correspondents will visit the area a week after the start of these operations and inspect the arms and ammunition and other equipment captured from the Iraqis. Correspondents from the American ABC, CBS, and NBC networks, correspondents from AFP, AP and UPI and reporters from two Japanese papers, [names indistinct], TIME magazine and THE GUARDIAN will take part in this tour.

TUNISIANS REPORTEDLY FIGHTING FOR IRAQ

LD252300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 25 Mar 82

[Text] According to a report sent from Tunisia to IRNA, during the past week the bodies of another 15 Tunisian workers have been transferred to Tunisia. These are the bodies of Tunisians who had been working in Iraq and who had been sent to fight in the war imposed by Saddam on the world's Muslims and oppressed.

IRNA adds that Jordanian, Egyptian and Sudanese nationals have been seen among the recent POW's captured during the epic 22 March operations on the fronts of blasphemy.

CLANDESTINE SAYS INDIA ASKED TO MEDIATE IN WAR

NC261656 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 26 Mar 82

[Text] Khomeyni's Islamic Republic has asked India to inform the Iraqi Government of Iran's readiness to start peace talks and establish a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq.

The Yugoslav news agency has reported that officials of the Islamic Republic have asked the Indian Government to inform the Iraqi Government that Iran is ready to start talks with it on the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Iran's occupied territories.

This report has not been confirmed or denied by Khomeyni's regime. So far, Khomeyni's Islamic Republic has rejected any proposal for peace and the establishment of a cease-fire between Iran and Iraq as well as all international efforts in this direction.

'Azizi Denies 'Rumors'

LD272150 Tehran IRNA in English 1412 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 27 Mar (IRNA) -- Iran categorically denied rumours concerning a cease fire or a peace via an Indian intermediary.

The rumours came up when the Yugoslav news agency, TANJUG, reported Friday from Tehran that during the meeting of an Indian official with the Iranian foreign minister the matter was discussed.

Ahmad 'Azizi, the deputy foreign minister, told IRNA today that any time there was an Iranian victory such rumours were spread, and these were imperialist plots. He further said that similar rumours were spread in the course of the recapture of the border town of Bostan on Nov 29, 1981, when 1,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed and around 1,300 others were taken captive.

BANK GOVERNOR DENIES REPORTS ON LIBYAN LOANS

GF271220 Tehran IRNA in Arabic 0910 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Mar (IRNA) -- At the conclusion of his visit to Libya, Iranian Central Bank Governor Dr Mohsen Nurbakhsh denied Western agencies' reports on Iran's intention to ask Libya for loans.

On the outcome of his visit to fraternal Libya, Dr Nurbakhsh told our correspondent in Tripoli that he discussed with their Central Bank governor monetary issues and cooperation between the two countries to confront U.S. imperialism in this regard and to paralyze U.S. efforts at creating tension and a slump in the international oil market. The Iranian Central Bank governor said that he discussed with his Libyan counterpart the issue of exchanging expertise in the banking field. He announced his readiness to place Iranian expertise at the disposal of his Libyan brothers. Dr Nurbakhsh invited a Libyan Central Bank delegation to visit Iran to become acquainted with Iran's expertise in the banking field.

Brother Nurbakhsh affirmed that his visit to Libya was to bolster bilateral relations and not to receive Libyan loans, as Western reports said. He said these agencies were surprised to see Iran achieve victory after victory without receiving any foreign loans while Iraq received $24 billion from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait. He said: "We depend on the people and the people are bearing the war expenses. Iran does not need foreign loans at all."

MAJLIS DEPUTIES CONDEMN U.S. 'PLOT' IN BAHRAIN

GF281505 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 13 Mar 82 p 1

[Letter issued by 54 Iranian Majlis deputies in Tehran — date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. What is happening to the risen and struggling people of Bahrain at the hands of the reactionary and puppet rulers of that country is part of a widespread plot ordered by imperialism in order to oppose the increasing wave of Islamic revolution in the region.

The rulers of Bahrain have resorted to a shameless life, in the manner of all those who transgress human rights, in order to explain their crushing act. On the one hand, they have attributed foreign connections to the combatants, those incarcerated and those armed, in order to destroy the freedom-loving and Islam-seeking opposition with a cheap excuse and by barbaric torture. On the other hand, there is an attempt to furnish new grounds for another propaganda attack against the Islamic Republic of Iran which is on the verge of final victory over the aggressor Saddam. This is occurring at a time when the Islamic Republic is trying to maintain its revolutionary calm against such idle talk by these incapacitated servants of the United States and Israel and these shameless supporters of the traitor Saddam.

We, as representatives of the people in the Islamic Republic, deny the imaginary claims of the Government of Bahrain and, while restressing the policy of nonintervention in the internal affairs of other countries, again clearly announce that this Islamic Republic will never — on the basis of Islamic goals — surrender to the plots of imperialism, Zionism and their puppets.

In the role of the protector of the world's oppressed, especially Muslims — which is the main and definite duty of the Islamic revolution — this republic will not sit still in the face of the bloody, crushing purge and deportation of Muslims from their country or in the face of threats against the interests of the Islamic Republic. We warn U.S. mercenaries and the expansionist powers that the unlimited power of the people who have thrown the world-devouring United States out of Iran and who have put the well-equipped army of Saddam on the verge of falling and certain defeat is fully capable of defending its honor and land as well as defending the combatant freedom-loving Muslims against the trainees of colonialism and lowly slaves of the United States.

[Signed] 54 signatures [as published]

BAHRAINIS STAGE SIT-IN, CONDEMN TRIAL OF 73

GF290706 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Mar 82 p 3

[Excerpt] A large number of Bahrainis residing in Iran staged a sit-in and hunger strike yesterday to denounce the death sentence requested for the 73 Bahraini Muslims by made-to-order courts and the arrest of more than 3,000 Muslims of that country.

According to our correspondent, various fronts participated in the sit-in, including:

1. The Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain;
2. Militant Iraqi clergymen;
3. The Islamic movement of the Iraqi people;
4. The Islamic liaison for Iraqi students;
5. The Islamic movement for the oppressed of Afghanistan;
6. The Iraqi 'Amal Islamic organization — Kurdish branch;
7. The Bahraini women's Islamic movement; and
8. The expelled Iraqis movement and a number of militant Bahraini clergymen.

The report adds that three Majlis deputies, Hojjat ol-Eslam Razavi Ardakani, Sapid Rud deputy; Mr Seyyed Mahmud 'Alavi, Larestan deputy; and Fakhroddin Hejazi, Tehran deputy, also participated in the ceremony and delivered speeches.

During his speech Mr Hejazi spoke about the struggle of the Bahraini Muslim people and said: We are supporting the Bahraini people and remind the leaders of the Bahraini Government not to massacre this people and not to arrest and torture thousands of Muslims or this people will not remain silent.

Our correspondent adds that the sit-in by Bahraini brothers residing in Tenran continued until 1800 yesterday. At the end, the following resolution was read:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We who have staged this sit-in in front of the Islamic Majlis in Tehran announce our solidarity with the Muslim nation of Bahrain during the international solidarity day with this nation as follows:

1. We express our full support for the struggle of Muslim nations to establish God's government on earth and especially for the struggle of the Iranian Muslim nation under the leadership of the Grand Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni.

We condemn the war imposed by Saddam's Ba'thist regime against the Islamic revolution of Iran and the plots of King Kusayn, King Hassan and the North Yemeni regime against this revolution.

We express our support for the struggle of Muslim masses of Egypt and condemn the death sentence asked by the Egyptian regime for our mojahed brothers who executed in a revolutionary manner the Egyptian pharaoh, Anwar as-Sadat.

We also announce our support for the nations of Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Eritrea, Moro, (Fatani), Tunisia, Morocco and Sudan for their struggle against all the puppet and mercenary leaders.

2. We declare full support for the struggle of our Muslim nation in Bahrain led by the Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain and we denounce the Al Khalifahs' cooperation with Zionists and Saddam. We ask all Muslim people of the world, especially the speaker and members of the Islamic Majlis, to support us on a world scale so that we obtain true independence and save our country from the yoke of U.S. imperialism.

3. We ask all international agencies and organizations to act to stop the savage practice of torture on prisoners in Bahrain and the Muslim families exiled from this country.

4. We condemn the so-called GCC and also all the security agreements signed by the Saudi regime to make the Gulf countries more dependent on U.S. imperialism.

5. We announce our full support for the struggle of the Palestinian nation to liberate the occupied territories from the claws of Zionism and imperialism. We condemn the French Government's stance on the issue of the struggle of the Palestinian nation and of the Muslims of Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR CONFERS WITH VELAYATI 28 MAR

LD281112 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 28 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 28 Mar (IRNA) -- The ambassador of the U.S.S.R. to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Vladimir Vinogradov, met and conferred this morning in Tehran with Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati.

In that meeting, relations between the two countries were discussed.

FRG FIRM TO SUPPLY NUCLEAR POWERPLANT PARTS, FUEL

LD280030 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 27 Mar 82

[Text] Tehran, 27 Mar (IRNA) -- According to an agreement reached between Iran and West German contractors in the arbitration court of Geneva, Iran will receive all the facilities and the equipment due to be delivered to the Iranian nuclear station in Bushehr, in the Persian Gulf, with a weight of 35,000 tons and value of 20 billion rials at the point of shipping at Europe.

In an exclusive talk with IRNA, Reza Amrollahi, head of the Atomic Energy Organisation, said that in 1358 (March 75 - March 80) [as received] when the organisation was reviewing the future of the Bushehr power station, the contractors of this station cancelled the contract unilaterally and asked for a loss of over 1.8 billion Deutschemarks. He added that the Iranian organisation reciprocally claimed 2.7 billion marks in losses. After several sessions in the arbitration court, the contractor accepted to withdraw its claim.

The Atomic Energy Organisation relinquised the continuation of court proceedings for an out of court settlement. Among the conditions were that all manufactured items belonging to the power station would be delivered to Iran and also that Iran receive the fuel equivalent to the money it has paid for the fuel for the power station.

After holding many sessions, the verdict of the arbitration court was announced as follows regarding the agreement of both sides. According to the agreement Iran would receive all the facilities and appurtenences of the Bushehr power station which weigh over 35,000 tons and worth more than 20 billion rials at the point of European shipping.

Also the contractor was bound to bear the expenses for their packing and transfer from the place of manufacture to European ports, which amounts to over one billion rials, and 150 million marks for the transportation of the facilities to Iran.

The contractor was also bound to deliver the fuel purchased for the Bushehr power station to Iran.

Amrollahi also warned French companies involved in similar suits that if they would not try to reach principal agreement with the Islamic Republic and yet insist on their former claims, the Atomic Energy Organisation would not give any concessions to them and would not give in to their blackmail.

Talking about the future of the uncompleted Bushehr nuclear power station and the sunk costs, Amrollahi said that the power station had two 1200 megawat units and more than 70 percent of the first unit and 40 percent of the second unit were constructed until halted on the approval of the (now dissolved) Revolutionary Council.

He stated that if the Majlis would accept, the first unit for which 200 billion rials has been spent so far would be completed by the Atomic Energy Organisation. He said that by using the existing experts, they would try to further move towards self-sufficiency in the research filed.

Stating the viewpoint of the Government of the Islamic Republic regarding the employment of neutron bombs in the world, the head of the Atomic Energy Organisation said that the Islamic Republic had shown in practice that it was against any inhuman act and countries which would use their fatal weapons would be considered criminal.